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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OES-06 /081 W
----------291003Z 018447 /20
R 290834Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3199
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 14974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EEWT ECEM CB US CH
SUBJECT: FIRST SHIPMENT OF WESTERN GOODS TO CAMBODIA

1. THE SINGAPORE FLAGSHIP HAI KWONG DEPARTED HONG KONG DECEMBER 22 WITH 3000 METRIC TONS OF CARGO DESTINED FOR CAMBODIA. INCLUDED IN THE CARGO WAS 440 MT OF U.S. MANUFACTURED DDT LICENSED FOR EXPORT IN OCTOBER. THIS IS THE FIRST SHIP FROM HONG KONG AND PROBABLY THE FIRST WESTERN SHIP TO CARRY GOODS TO CAMBODIA SINCE THE COMMUNIST TAKE OVER IN APRIL 1975. SEVERAL UNLICENSED U.S. ITEMS WERE ABOARD.

2. THE SHIP, MANAGED BY THE HONG KONG REGISTERED FIRM, PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES, LTD., SAILED UNDER CHARTER DIRECTLY FOR KOMPONG SON (SIHANOUKVILLE). SHIPPERS INCLUDED REN FUNG (THE HONG KONG REGISTERED CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TRADING COMPANY) SEVERAL HONG KONG TRADING COMPANIES AND THE EGYPTAIN CONGEN. ACCORDING TO LOCAL BUSINESS SOURCES,
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TWO MORE CHARTERED TRIPS ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

3. THE SHIP'S CARGO CONSISTED OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, SPARE PARTS, MEDICINE AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, DDT AND OTHER CHEMICALS AND A VARIETY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS. ONE NEW TOYOTA

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CAR AND BUS FOR THE PRC EMBASSY IN PHNOM PHEN AND THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE ALSO ABOARD. (COMMENT: THIS SEEMS TO CONFIRM REPORTS THAT UNLIKE OTHER DIPLOMATS IN CAMBODIA, THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR IS ABLE TO TRAVEL TO SOME EXTENT.) CONGEN WILL REPORT COMPLETE CARGO LIST BY AIRGRAM.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. LICENSED DDT, OTHER ANTI-MALARIA PROGRAM CARGO INCLUDED ANOTHER 400 METRIC TONS OF 100 PER CENT DDT (ORIGIN UNKNOWN), 1250 JAPANESE HAND SPRAYERS, 10,000 BOXES OF CHLOROQUINE (ANTI-MALARIA) TABLETS AND A CASE OF CHLOROQUINE PHOSPHATE AMPOULES. OTHER MEDICAL ITEMS WERE 1 MILLION VIALS OF PENICILLIN, 40 CARTONS O VITAMIN B-1 AND C, 12 DRUMS OF QUININE DIHYDROCHLORIDE, 50 MICROSCOPES AND FIVE DIAGNOSTIC SETS FOR EYE,EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

5. MOST CARGO APPEARED TO BE OF JAPANESE, BRITISH OR FRENCH ORIGIN. UNLICENSED UNITED STATES-MANUFACTURED ITEMS WERE 28 METRIC TONS OF MONSANTO SANTOFLEX IP-FLAKES, 1.4 METRIC TONS OF MONSANTO SANTOCURE NS-POWDER (BOTH FOR PRODUCTION OF RUBBER PRODUCTS), 45 ROLLS OF OWENS-CORNING FIBERGLASS AND SIX CASES OF CATERPILLER SERVICE TOOLS. FIVE CASES OF FORD THAMES ACCESSORIES WERE ALSO SHIPPED.

COMMENTS: THIS SHIPMENT REFLECTS CAMBODIAN EFFORTS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH ITS RAMPANT MALARIA PROBLEM AND TO GET ITS HANDFUL OF INDUSTRIAL UNITS ROLLING. THE BANK OF CHINA IS KNOWN TO HAVE ISSUED LETTERS OF CREDIT COVERING
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MANY OF THE ITEMS LOADED ABOARD, AND IN ALL PROBABILITY THE PRC IS FINANCING THE WHOLE OPERATION. IT SEEMS DOUBT-FUL, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN WITH CHINA'S BEST EFFORTS, THAT CAMBODIA WILL PROGRESS VERY FAR UNDER ITS PRESENT PARANOIAC RULERS.
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